

4 Nights Cruise Itinerary

Rainy / High Water Season | November - May

A 4 -night cruise exploring the wonderful Amazon, Ucayali and Marañon rivers and its tributaries towards the Sapote River, a buffered zone of the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve. While the expedition group enters in one of the greatest flooded forests of the world, you will see extraordinary wildlife, many species of primates, hundreds of exotic and colorful birds and groups of pink and gray dolphins only after a single day.

Day 1 Saturday

IQUITOS - AMAZON RIVER

Arrival from Lima (1 hour 25 minute trip to the capital of the Peruvian Amazon). Your guides will be expecting your arrival at the airport, and transfer all together in our comfortable private vehicle over paved road to the main wharf to board the Zafiro, your home for the next seven nights.

Embarkation and check in aboard the Zafiro. Our qualified staff will introduce you to your stylish suite, specially equipped with all the amenities for the experienced traveler as yourself. Comfortable beds, pure cotton sheets, pillows, cotton bathrobes, air conditioning, private bathroom with Spanish style hot water showers, and a private balcony on each suite in the upper deck. During the next five days the Zafiro will sail the Amazon, Ucayali and Marañon Rivers and their amazing tributaries bountiful in wildlife.

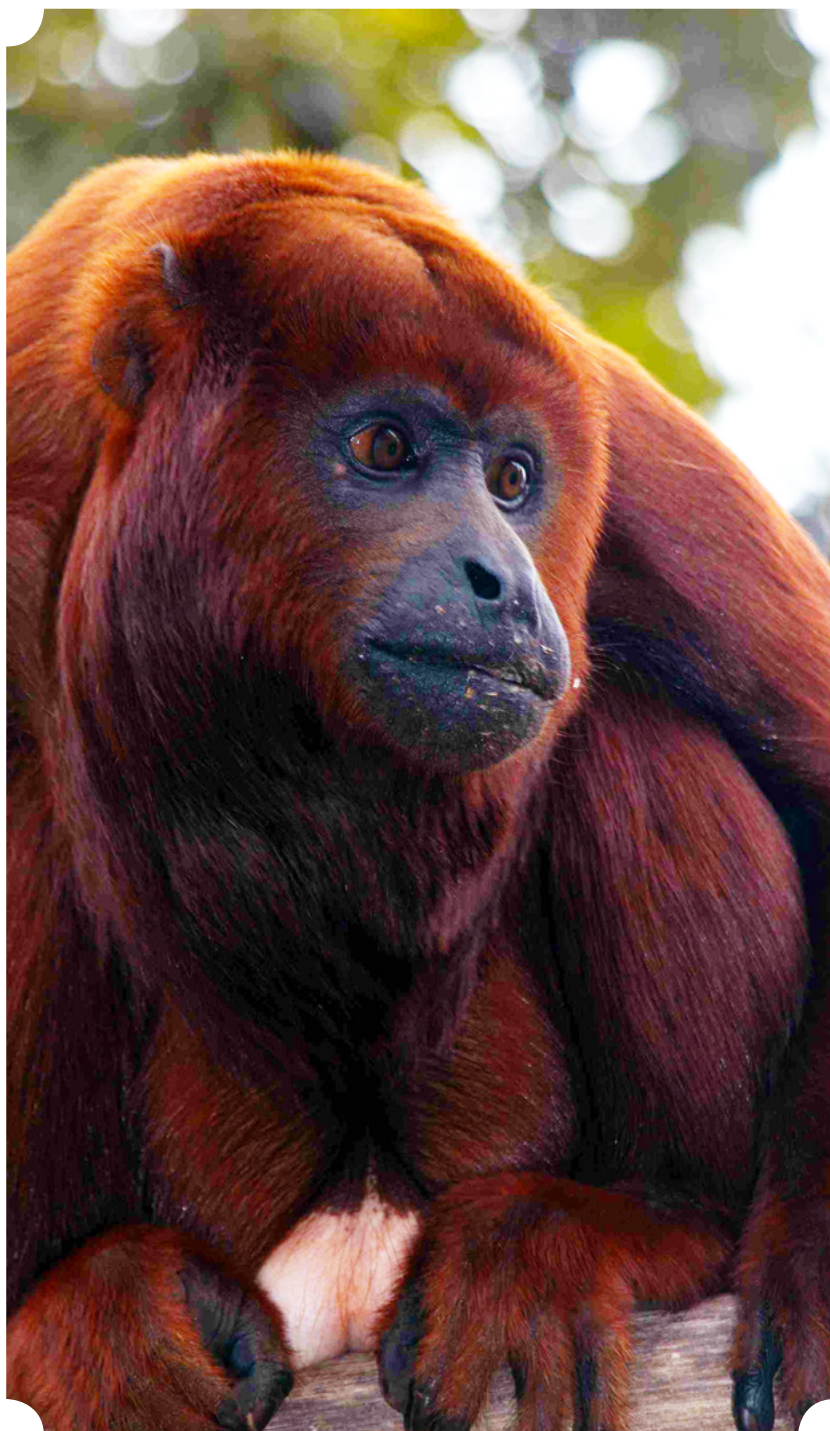
While the Zafiro begins its primary navigation, enjoy the most fantastic panoramic views from the gracefully interior lounge located on the third deck. Our bartender will be waiting to serve you an exotic cocktail made with regional fruits and pisco, the national brandy liquor of Peru. Before the welcome dinner, your naturalist guide will give you an overview of your journey's schedule, activities, route, highlights, wildlife and vegetation, geographical and historical background, and other useful details. Moreover, should you have any doubts or questions, our guides are always at your disposal.

Our vessels have an open policy, so you are welcome to learn about the navigation systems and spend time with the driving captain at any time.

Welcome Dinner at 8:00 pm. Salute your journey with our fine South American wine that accompanies the Amazonia-influenced cuisine of Jungle Experiences (our menu offers several choices, including a vegetarian option – please let us know any other specific dietary requirements in advance).

After the welcome dinner we invite you to the third deck where you can enjoy stargazing while we cruise into the depths of the Amazon Rainforest, or else relax with live music performed by our band on board enjoying a varied repertoire of Amazon, national and international music.





Day 2 Sunday

AMAZON RIVER - YANAYACU OF YACAPANA- AMAZON BIRTH PLACE- PIRANA CREEK- NAUTA CREEK – MARANON RIVER.

Yanayacu of Yacapana Exploration. Board our comfortable excursion skiffs for your first adventure. Life jackets, ponchos, rubber boots, and plenty of cold drinking water are always available for you on board the skiffs. Early birdwatching into the native kukama reserve (yanayacu of yucapana). This reserve has about 17 black waters lakes, bountiful in wildlife and home of Ayacucho and San Juan native communities. This morning we will observe monkeys, parrots, macaws and learn more about nature. Breakfast. Our lavish daily buffet breakfast offers a wide selection of traditional dishes, Peruvian specialties, homemade baked goods and fresh-squeezed juices. Amazon birth place expedition. After breakfast, the Zafiro skirts the edges of Pacaya-Samiria Reserve, a flooded forest covering five million acres at the headwaters of the Amazon basin.

Board our comfortable excursion skiffs for your expedition on the confluence where the Marañon and Ucayali Rivers join together forming the mighty Amazon River. Nature here appears especially dramatic: birdsong accompanies your morning excursion as you glide past river banks inhabited by large-billed terns, laughing falcons, gray tanagers, and sandpipers, five kinds of parakeets, the exotic short-tailed parrot, and countless other colorful birds. We will explore the first river into the Pacaya and Samiria National Reserve named: piranha creek, in searching of wildlife; this area is known as the parrot-parakeet paradise.

Return to the Zafiro at 11:30 followed by lunch, Peruvian inspired midday flares in our air-conditioning dining room, while we start to sail up the Marañon River.

Amazonian Philosophy Lecture. One of our naturalist guides will introduce you about the idiosyncrasy, beliefs and deep thoughts of the Amazonian people, such as the spirituality that is everywhere and not only on human beings.

Late Afternoon excursions to Nauta Creek within Pacaya-Samiria Reserve which is known as the mirrored forest, which makes perfect sense as you gaze upon its glistening black water lagoons. Our naturalist guides use their eagle eyes to help you spot toucans, parrots and macaws overhead and iguanas, sloths and monkeys among the soaring trees. On the way back to the Zafiro, the glorious sunset is reflected in these glistening waters.

Return to the Zafiro. Perhaps sip a pisco sour on the observation deck with a live music concert from our local band followed by another Peruvian-inspired dinner.

Optional Nocturnal boat ride to enjoy the symphony from the night and constellations, as well as search for caimans, tarantulas, boa constrictors and more.



Day 3 Monday

YANAYACU OF PUCATE - YANAYAQUILLO - CREEK PERDIDA - TIGER RIVER - NAHUAPA

Yanayacu of pucate and Yanayaquillo exploration, followed by delicious breakfast aboard the skiffs. Early in the morning you will start cruising through the Yanayacu and Pucate Rivers, peeking into different creeks and lagoons. This is one of the best preserved and protected zones of the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. Your guide will use his expert eye to pinpoint all the biodiversity of this region. This is also a popular dolphin feeding spot so we won't be the only one enjoying our happy meal here. Return to the Zafiro at 11:00 to enjoy a delicious lunch followed by heartwarming siesta. If you want to interact directly with the waters of the Amazon, go out on one of our paddle boards. You will even have the opportunity to swim in the river along with the famous pink dolphins!

In the afternoon, enjoy a lecture about Geographical orientation in our air-conditioned Indoor Lounge. Learn about hydrography of rivers to explore sustainable species according to the natural resources of the area.

Perdida Creek Expedition. On this late afternoon excursion, you are going to have a skiff boat expedition into this beautiful creek, full of colorful birds, such as: Paradise tanager, masked crimson tanager, Wood peckers, awls, scarlet crowned barbet and enjoy the great symphony they create. Return to the Zafiro for Dinner.

Night excursion into Tiger River to a place called Nahuapa. Tiger River is one of most important tributaries that flow into the Marañon River owning hundreds of other small rivers flowing into the main Tiger River. We will explore one of those small rivers called Nahuapa to look for caimans, snakes, tarantulas, night monkeys, nocturnal birds such as boat billed herons-great potoos and more. Wildlife is always active early in the morning, late afternoon and night, turning out into an amazing experience.

Day 4 Tuesday

MARANON RIVER - SAMIRIA RIVER - SAN MARTIN DE TIPISHCA

Samiria River expedition. After breakfast our skiffs skim the Samiria River and its tributaries, where an abundance of wildlife hides in the deep rainforest, such as blue and yellow macaws, scarlet macaws, toucans, umbrella birds, monkeys, and river others, capybaras and more. Return to the Zafiro at 11:00 followed by lunch. Amazon lecture. Learn about where the amazon name comes from, and flora and fauna that inhabit there.

Village Visit. Meet the genuinely welcoming people of San Martin de Tipishca kukama community Amazonia at this riverside community. Your naturalist guide acts as interpreter so that you may talk with them about their life along the Amazon. Of course, no one has to interpret these kids' bright smiles and wide eyed curiosity about you. This visit also offers an excellent opportunity to buy easy to pack artisanal handicrafts, from painted coconut bowls to surprisingly chic seed bead jewelry.

Tipishca Lake formed over 100 years ago by the Las Piedras River Cutting through the neck of a sharp meander. Lake Tipishca harbors good fish stocks, including piranha and catfish. Bird life on the lake is plentiful, the lake attracts many species which include, blue and yellow macaw, grey-necked wood-rails, putrescent tiger-herons, wattle jacanas, amazon and pygmy kingfishers, green ibis, black-collared hawk, black capped mocking thrush and yellow-rumped caciques. You might also spot hoatzins; red capped cardinals, and ringed kingfishers.

Enjoy live music from our local band aboard the Zafiro followed by a splendid dinner.





Day 5 Wednesday

MARANON RIVER - PAMPA CREEK - SHIRIYACU- CHECK OUT - DISEMBARKATION AT NAUTA - CITY TOUR - TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT

Pampa creek expedition. Before breakfast early birdwatching. We follow its shoreline, sure to surprise the many species of monkeys and birds, including terns, neo-tropic cormorants, egrets, herons, hawks, and our favorite horned screamers. Return to the Zafiro followed by breakfast. At 09:00 am, begins your expedition for fishing the famous piranhas into Shiriayacu stream, and walk into the jungle to meet a local healer to learn about complementary medicine from the amazon and ancestral traditions that we have been losing. This experience will give us the opportunity to formulate questions to the healer and know a bit more about our former traditions. Return to the Zafiro at 11:30 am followed by an early lunch. Share a last lunch with your fellow passengers, before beginning your homeward journey.

Disembarkation/Manatee Rescue Center/Transfer to the Airport. On our way from Nauta back to Iquitos airport, you will visit the Rescue & Rehabilitation Center of River Mammals (ACOBIA) where you will have the chance to meet baby manatees and learn about these wonderful and docile creatures and why they are on the endangered species list. You will also have the chance to pet and feed these kind manatees. Likewise, there are also some other animals cared for by the center that have been rescued from capture for the intention of being turned into pets and other threatening conditions. We welcome you to donate to this ambitious organization and education center as you wish.

Our land personnel will wait you at the airport to deliver your boarding passes and assist you with departure formalities.

Check-in at Iquitos International Airport at 4:30 pm. Our staff will be on hand to assist you with your luggage and check in at Crnl. FAP Francisco Secada Vignetta International Airport in Iquitos. The return flight will take you directly to the city of Lima, the capital of Peru. We truly hope that you enjoyed your stay and Amazon travel experience with us!



Itinerary Addendum

Itinerary

The itineraries are subject to change due to weather conditions at certain times of the year. The water levels of the rivers also vary from time to time, as well as the hours of sailing. Excursions may be modified at the discretion of the Zafiro crew.

Weather

The weather in Iquitos is warm and humid and the temperature varies between 33 °C (90 °F) and 21 °C (70 °F).

The rainy (high water) season is from November to May. The dry (low water) season is from June to October. Each season boasts dramatic difference in plants, animals, and weather.

Clothing

Light and fresh pieces, blouses, long-sleeved shirts, swimwear, shoes with soft rubber sole for the boat (rubber boots and rain ponchos are provided by us), cardigan or long-sleeved shirts, wind resistant jackets. The days are hot and humid while the night breeze is fresh.

Insects & Mosquitoes

We recommend taking Vitamin B or B-15 a few days before arrival to the jungle. These vitamins are the best natural repellent against insect bites. As well, do not forget to bring conventional repellent and cream for bites.

Note: Please note that changes and adjustments in the itinerary may occur due to weather conditions, river conditions, and/or airline issues. We suggest that you coordinate with anticipation with the airline or travel agency through which you have organized your journey with us. Jungle Experiences is not responsible for such contingencies.